

February 2024

# CHURCH-PLANTING ASSISTANT

South Spring Villas, Bucal, Calamba City 4027  
LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES



## CHERYL DYCK UPDATE

Dear Pastor,

Greetings! I am grateful for your prayers and support. This year started out with a few unexpected challenges. Praise the Lord, He was not surprised!

I was set for a January 22 departure for the Philippines, but God had other plans.

On January 8, my sister's husband of 31 years passed away suddenly during his sleep. (Due to the need for an autopsy, the funeral was not scheduled until January 30.) I contemplated how and when to visit my grieving sister in Canada before my departure. The weather became dangerously cold and travel advisories were issued preventing my immediate visit. Then on January 14-15, my mother started to show signs of a stroke with severe headache and confusion. Her CT scan on January 18 gave us the devastating results. By January 19, her left-sided weakness was more pronounced. She was not able to stay by herself at home for more than a few minutes.

My niece was scheduled to arrive from Texas to take a job here in Harvey on January 23. It became very evident that the simple transfer of care as we did last year would not work this time. Mom needed 24-hour care, transfer and toileting assistance as well as nearly complete care in many areas. She needs a 24 hour nursing team! Her needs have only increased since the stroke.

I am longing to be back in the Philippines. I greatly miss the avenues of service in the churches there. We were planning and preparing for Vacation Bible School in March. That cannot happen now. I am working with my Filipino ministry partners to get the materials ready for a Teacher Training in April and a possible VBS in May. I have sent funds for them to get things rolling for this ministry to children.

Only the Lord knows how long my mother will survive. We are grateful that at this time she can think, pray, and speak some. We have admitted her to Home Hospice Care. There are nurse and social worker visits each week, but my niece and I are doing the 24-hour care. Truthfully, it is exhausting. I've never been so sleep-deprived. I'd appreciate your prayers for wisdom, strength, and patience.

Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Jesus talks about the yoke—the trials and work God has prepared for me—prepared especially for me, and suited just for me. I confess, I am somewhat resistant to this change of plans. Praying for a submissive spirit to God's will and yoke. All I can do at times is just "the next thing". Sometimes that is just getting meals and doing laundry, beyond the personal cares for Mom. Is this my opportunity to heed Paul's admonishing in 1Timothy 5:4 that the "children...show piety at home, and ...require their parents"? It seems so.

Your faithful giving has been so important in the continuing ministry in the Philippines. I would not be able to help them rent places of ministry, or supply funds for support and materials for outreaches without your continued prayers and support. I had saved enough funds to buy a vehicle there but had to let the sale go. I rented an apartment for three months( Jan 22-May 3). I don't know if I'll be able to move the dates yet. God will make it clear in His time.

Know this, that your prayers are spreading the Gospel in places we are not! Your support is giving the opportunity for many Filipinos to know of God's love. I will plan to return to the Philippines as soon as God clears the way.

Thank you very much for all you do for missions and me!

In the way He leads,

*Cheryl Dyck*

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